

KANSAS CITY DISTRICT'S NEWS MAGAZINE

# HEARTLAND ENGINEER



[www.nwkc.usace.army.mil](http://www.nwkc.usace.army.mil)

DECEMBER 2008 - JANUARY 2009



**First Tribal Summit**  
a historic event for Kansas City District





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Dear Readers,

Happy Holidays! I hope this holiday season finds you in good health and happy spirits. I think back to where I was last year at this time, and I'm so grateful to be here with my loved ones and enjoying my life as an American.

I think this topic I am about to discuss is especially relevant considering the recent push from Headquarters to get Corps employees to voluntarily deploy.

For those who don't know, I was deployed last year to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, in support of the Global War on Terrorism, and what an experience that was! The pros far outweighed the cons, and I have to admit I would love to go again.

First, I'll discuss the cons. The most challenging issue I faced was being away from my family—especially around the holidays. I got to talk to my husband nearly every day via the telephone or webcam, but not having my emotional support system around to give a hug when I needed one or a shoulder to cry on was pretty hard for me to deal with.

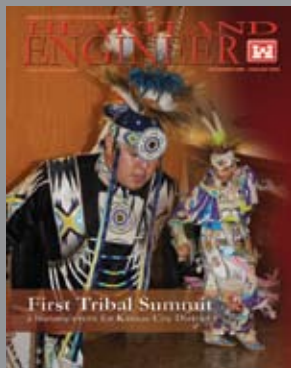
Another con was simply getting there. In the Army Reserves, we spend months preparing for a deployment. We began preparing in January, finally left for Fort Hood, Texas, early June and arrived in Kuwait late July. What a long, drawn-out process!

## The pros

- 1) I got to communicate with my husband and other family members as often as I wanted. I had WiFi in my room. It may have been a little slow at times, but I HAD WiFi IN MY ROOM!!! I always had access to a phone, so it was very easy to call home whenever I wanted. For this, I love technology.
  - 2) The gyms on the camp were fantastic (there were two for me to choose from). They were full of all kinds of equipment, and I never had to wait to use anything and they were FREE! Oh, how I miss the gyms at Camp Arifjan.
  - 3) I made some really great friends from all over the world. These people really helped me make it through the tough times. We developed a type of camaraderie a close family shares. They were my family away from home, and I'll never forget them.
  - 4) I was able to experience true American generosity. You would not believe the amount of gifts we received from businesses, churches, schools and other organizations. And while we could have purchased many of those items ourselves at the Exchange or online, it was incredibly touching to know that we hadn't been forgotten.
  - 5) The USO was great! I have never seen so many celebrities in my life, thanks to them. I joke with my sister who lives in Los Angeles that I have met more celebrities than her, and she lives in a city where they're a dime a dozen.
  - 6) I learned a whole new appreciation for plumbing. While we take it for granted here in the United States, it's not that way in other countries. Yes, I was able to take a shower mostly everyday, but there were times when waterlines would be broken and I would have to wait a few hours until they were back up again.
  - 7) Money. I earned a lot of it while I was gone—a whole lot more than I make when I'm home. Need I say more?
- If you're considering deployment to Afghanistan, please understand this is a personal decision that should not be taken lightly and should be discussed with your loved ones. But I guarantee you that if deployment is the right move for you, you will not regret it!

Happy Reading!

Diana McCoy



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## ON THE COVER:

Members from the Kansas City District along with Mr. John P. Woody Jr. and Brig. Gen. William A. Rapp watch song and dance performances by students of the Haskell Indian Nations University during the inaugural Tribal Government Summit hosted in Lawrence, Kan. To learn more, check out the story on page 7. (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)



## Unveiling the coin

As we prepare to usher in a New Year, we will also unveil a new Commander's Coin. Given "on the spot" for excellence, Commander's Coins have become cherished keepsakes across the Army, and I'm proud to continue this tradition with the unveiling of this great representation of the Kansas City District and our various missions.



Col. Roger A. Wilson Jr.

The "head" of the coin features the Army Star to recognize our heritage and remind us we are an integral part of the Army—civilians and military alike, responsible for delivering military construction projects in support of national defense at home and abroad. Fort Leavenworth, Fort Riley, Fort Leonard Wood, McConnell Air Force Base and Whiteman Air Force Base make up the bulk of this mission set, however we cannot exclude our support to Iraq, Afghanistan and other contingencies. We are Army Strong.

The second image is a levee, representing our multi-faceted civil works program comprised of navigation support, flood risk reduction, regulatory, emergency management and recreation. Since 1907 the Kansas City District has been pivotal along the lower Missouri River basin, striking the balance between all the authorized purposes.

The third image is a leaf which represents our environmental mission and our professional responsibility to be stewards of our environment, and to return land, water and other habitat to preexisting conditions, harmless to humans and other life. Everything we do must balance the necessity to take care of our environment and provide for the species that share our spaces.

The fourth and most prominent image is our beloved Engineer castle. We are the Corps. We are Building Strong, and the castle represents everything the Corps has accomplished throughout its more than two centuries of service. When you see the castle, you see professionals, you see solutions and you see integrity.

The "tail" side of the coin features stalks of wheat and the Pioneer Mother statue. Sculpted by A. Phimister Proctor in 1927 and located in Penn Valley Park, it stands as a tribute to the pioneer mother and family who courageously ventured west up the Missouri River, suffered hardships and provided a peaceful and bountiful Heartland. Just like the pioneers of old, Kansas City District employees embrace this self sufficient, hard-working spirit that makes this the best place to serve.

This coin could not have been possible without the talents of Rusty Thomas and his project delivery team. Please join me in celebrating the newest addition to our growing coin lineage. I look forward to the New Year and new opportunities to excel, and I am eager to award each of you a new coin.

Building Strong!





# 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Truman Managed Deer Hunt a success

By Jason Hurley

The Shawnee Masonic Lodge No. 653 and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sponsored the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Truman Managed Deer Hunt for individuals with physical disabilities Nov. 8 and 9 at the Shawnee Bend and Berry Bend recreation areas at Harry S. Truman Lake.

The combined resources and partnership of the Shawnee Masonic Lodge #653, local non-profit organizations and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers make the event possible every year. Many local sponsors, guides and volunteers worked long hours to help make this a successful managed deer hunt.

Hunters and volunteers alike arrived at 4 a.m. both days to enjoy a hearty breakfast before heading to the woods. Volunteer Drew Allen and his crew were up well before everyone else preparing food for breakfast and lunch.

The early morning start allowed participants enough time to eat, review safety rules, draw for deer blinds and match hunters with guides. Deer guides assisted hunters with everything from getting into their blinds to transporting their deer. Many of the guides and hunters have formed long-lasting relationships and look forward to the managed hunt every year.

Cool temperatures created perfect conditions for hunters and encouraged the deer leave their dwellings. A total of 24 hunters participated in this year's hunt, harvesting 25 deer. Each hunter is allowed to take three deer using one "any deer" and two "antlerless" deer tags. The managed deer hunt allows individuals with permanent physical disabilities to experience

a hunting opportunity they might otherwise not have while helping to keep the park's deer population under control.

The hunters were given an opportunity to sight-in their rifles the day before the hunt at the Golden Valley Shooting Range near Clinton, Mo., to ensure the accuracy that can lead to a safe shooting experience and a clean deer harvest. Hunters were allowed uninterrupted target practice under a special use permit issued by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

The event included a random drawing for several door prizes. Many of the hunters and guides received items donated by sponsors throughout the Truman Lake area. Businesses from Warsaw, Clinton and Sedalia donated the door prizes, as well as a refrigerated cooler and food for breakfast and lunch.

As its popularity increases, the hunt is drawing the interest of hunters, guides, and sponsors from all over the state of Missouri.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Harry S. Truman Lake would like to thank the teams consisting of Junior Young, Jack Williams, Drew Allen, Jim Thompson and Dick Lewis who put in long hours coordinating guides, providing meals and assuring the safety of the hunters.

*Jason Hurley is a natural resource specialist at the Harry S. Truman Lake project in Warsaw, Mo.*

## Winter Safety

*Trapped in your vehicle during severe weather?*

- \*If you have a cellular phone, call for help.
- \*Stay in your vehicle. Disorientation occurs quickly in wind-driven snow and cold.
- \*Run the engine about ten minutes each hour for heat.
- \*Watch out for Carbon Monoxide poisoning. Keep exhaust pipe clear of snow and open a window slightly for ventilation.
- \*Make yourself visible to rescuers. Turn on the dome light at night when running engine. Tie a brightly colored cloth to your antenna or door. Raise the hood indicating trouble after snow stops falling.
- \*Do mild exercises to sustain circulation. Avoid staying in one place too long.
- \*If more than one person is in the car, take turns sleeping.

# Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee

## meets for first time

By Mary Roth

The inaugural meeting of the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) convened Sept. 29 through Oct. 1 in St. Louis, Mo., to discuss issues that relate to the Missouri River Recovery Program.

The MRRIC is comprised of representatives of basin Tribes, States and stakeholders as well as federal agencies with responsibilities that affect the river.

In order to ensure all committee members concerns were equally heard, the meeting was facilitated by the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution.

The committee heard information on the Missouri River Recovery Program, the Ecosystem Restoration Plan and pallid sturgeon recovery efforts at this first meeting.

While Tribes, states and feds appointed their representatives, stakeholder representatives were chosen through an application process.

Twenty-eight stakeholder representatives were selected

to represent 16 basin interest categories. Those applying for a stakeholder position were required to submit an application and letters of recommendation to demonstrate their qualifications.

Participation in the first meeting of the committee far exceeded expectations. More than 50 members attended, including representatives from all eight basin states and five basin Tribes.

All 28 stakeholder positions were represented along with 10 different federal agencies.

The high attendance at the two-and-a-half-day meeting proved to be a strong indication of the degree of interest in Missouri River recovery issues in the basin.

The inaugural meeting focused primarily on developing operating procedures for the committee.

To begin the process, an interim committee chairman was selected by a consensus vote of the members.

Mr. Randy Asbury, At-Large representative from Higbee, Mo., was chosen by consensus to serve as

interim chairman until a chairman is selected to serve.

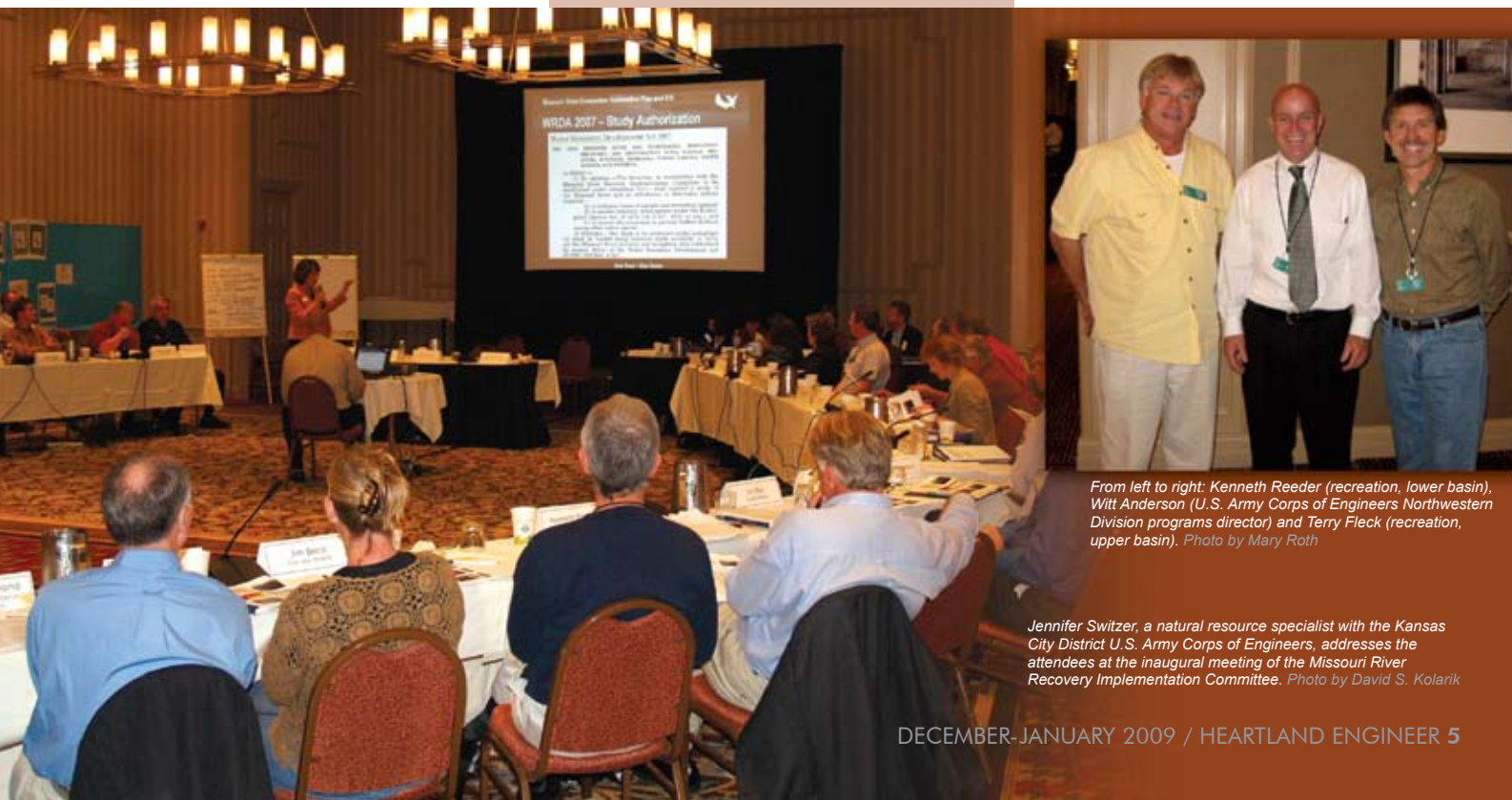
Information-sharing is and will be a significant component of the MRRIC's agenda.

In addition to information-sharing, WRDA 2007 tasks the MRRIC with providing input to and recommendations on recovery activities in the basin and the study that will result in the Ecosystem Restoration Plan.

Committee members are very eager to influence decision-making and are interested in the specific activities, processes and time-frames for their input.

The committee decided to hold its next meeting in Omaha, Neb., Dec. 16 through 18. The Corps is working with the U.S. Institute to determine a venue. All meetings are open to the public.

*Mary Roth is from the Omaha District. David S. Kolarik, acting chief of Public Affairs, contributed to this story.*



From left to right: Kenneth Reeder (recreation, lower basin), Witt Anderson (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Northwestern Division programs director) and Terry Fleck (recreation, upper basin). Photo by Mary Roth

Jennifer Switzer, a natural resource specialist with the Kansas City District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, addresses the attendees at the inaugural meeting of the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee. Photo by David S. Kolarik



Brig. Gen. William E. Rapp, Northwestern Division commander, assures members of the summit that NWD will do all it can to help better the quality of life for tribal nations within NWD. *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Photo*



Sec. Woodley addresses tribal nation concerns during a roundtable discussion at the historic summit. *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Photo*



Haskell Indian Nation University students perform the ceremonial Flag Song at the summit opening. *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Photo*





# Heartland engineers participate in historic Tribal Government Summit

By David S. Kolarik

The Kansas City District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers shared a moment in history with members of four tribal nations in the inaugural Tribal Government Summit hosted at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan.

"We're here today to reaffirm the relationships on behalf of the United States and the sovereignties of the tribal nations," said Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, the Honorable John P. Woodley.

Corps officials participating in the summit with Secretary Woodley included: Northwestern Division Commander Brig. Gen. William E. Rapp and Kansas City District Commander Col. Roger A. Wilson Jr.

The summit began with a traditional rendition of the "Flag Song" and was later followed by amazing song and dance performances from students of the Haskell Indian Nations University.

"Our purpose here today is to listen," said Wilson.

The summit opened with tribal nation leaders representing the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, the Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri from Kansas and Nebraska all voicing their concerns on a host of issues that involve the Corps.

"The Kansas City District Corps of Engineers has responded strongly to our needs, and we deeply appreciate the Corps' work and the relationship they share with the Kickapoo Nation," said Honorable Chairman Steve Cadue of the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas.

With this, the Kickapoo Tribe presented Mr. Woodley and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with the coveted eagle feather.

The eagle feather in native cultures is the highest award bestowed upon an individual or an organization. When given, it is a symbol of recognition of honor, gratitude, love and ultimate respect.

Woodley humbly received the eagle feather on behalf of the United States.

"I don't know how close you are to the President of the United States, but you tell him on behalf of the Kickapoo Nation that both the Corps and the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas are working together and will continue working together to better the lives of all," said Cadue.

Many issues were addressed at the summit that focused primarily on the quality of life as it relates to the tribal nations. Topics included flood prevention, river control, The Water Resource Development Act (WRDA), aquatic ecosystem restoration, tributary development and The Missouri River Restoration Committee, economic development, internships, the Missouri River Recovery Program (MRRP) and the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC).



Col. Roger A. Wilson Jr., Kansas City District commander, receives the first seed of the harvest from Honorable Chairman Steve Cadue of the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas. This seed is symbolic of stature and is traditionally given to the most honored person on the reservation. The seed is stored and becomes the first seed planted the following year.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Photo

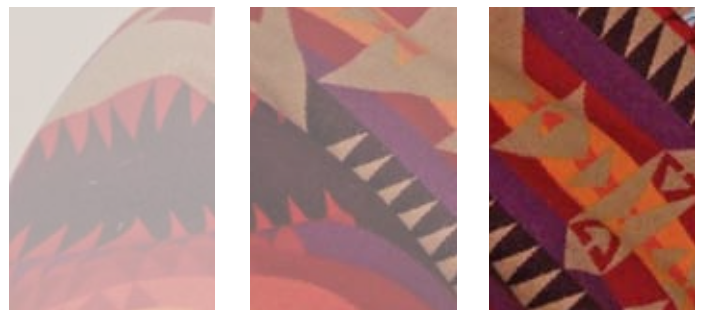
"Our philosophy is that water is life. Without our water resources, we'd have no economic base. Everything depends on water," said Cadue.

The Corps leadership listened very carefully to the thoughts and concerns of the tribal leaders so as to have a better understanding of the importance of the great economic and social impacts that Corps projects have on the daily operations in tribal nation communities.

"As Northwestern Division commander, I appreciate your counsel and look forward to working with you to better your communities and the nation; you can trust us to work to help you with your needs," said Rapp.

The historic meeting ended with a better understanding of tribal issues and a willingness to both continue and improve upon these relationships in order to better promote goodwill and camaraderie between governments.

The ultimate goal of the historic summit was to become more informed so as to enhance the quality of life for Native Americans.



# Kansas City District

## tests its preparedness, relationships with other agencies



By Diana McCoy

It was 9 p.m. on the Fourth of July, and as the public prepared for a fireworks display, an explosion rocked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District's Harry S. Truman Dam located in Warsaw, Mo.

At least, this was the report that came in to the Emergency Operations Center as part of a simulation exercise that included several state and local agencies including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Homeland Security, the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency and AmerenUE.

This first-ever exercise was part of the 2008 Dam Security Exercise Series (DSES-08). It aimed to test the interoperability and communications protocols for private sector and government entities facing potentially catastrophic events involving two dams in the same river basin. In this scenario, they were the Truman Dam and Bagnell Dam in Osage Beach, Mo.

"We thought this project was a huge success," said Bill Empson, the chief of Civil Works Project Management for the Kansas City District. He was in charge of coordinating the district's involvement. "It gave us an opportunity to develop relationships with AmerenUE and other local and federal agencies."

The exercise condition was intentionally set so participants would have to react to a worst-case scenario. It was 9 p.m., and

conditions were dark, which made it even harder to assess damage to the dam.

Lake levels were already high with more rain in the forecast. As an added bonus, several boaters were on the lake in preparation for a fireworks display.

It was confirmed that Truman Dam sustained structural damage, and a state of emergency was issued.



Officials from federal, state and local agencies gather Sept. 17 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City, Mo., for the Dam Safety Exercise Series 2008 (DSE-08). This exercise was the first of its kind for the Corps and gave state and federal agencies a chance to work together and test each agency's capabilities. *CENWK-PA Photo*

"I gave us a B+ for the exercise," Empson said. "We were good, but not perfect, and there were many lessons learned from the exercise. We respond well to floods, but not to instantaneous events."

Mark Asbury, the district's security officer, observed the exercise from the district's EOC in Kansas City.

"It was very clear that our lake

project management people knew how to respond," Asbury said. "Our dam safety people and engineers' analysis of the flooding is clearly top notch. Great job by the team out in the field who understand the need to take immediate action."

Empson said the district did some things well. Players at the lake overcame communications problems out in the field, and the hydraulic modeling folks were able to respond quickly with downstream flood impacts, allowing local entities to gauge evacuations in a timely manner.

But there's always room for improvement.

"This is a recurring lesson with every exercise," Empson said. "Whenever human lives are involved, communication needs to improve. From a district standpoint, we could have performed better."

Asbury said the good thing is that Empson and the Corps took this exercise seriously and were actively involved.

"We need to continue the same interest in holding an annual exercise," he said. "The good news is we have a lot of smart people here."



# Eagle Days once again

Thousands of people visit the Kansas City District's lake projects every year during the month of January to get a glimpse of our nation's emblem, the bald eagle.

The district provides safe viewing opportunities and a lot of interpretive information for the public. Our lakes provide tremendous wintering and nesting habitat, which naturally attracts bald eagles during the winter.

Come out to our lake projects for this year's Eagle Days events, which will be hosted by seven of our lake projects.

## ***Stockton Lake, Jan. 3***

The Stockton Lake Project Office, the Stockton Lake Association and the Missouri Department of Conservation combine forces to bring the community a spectacle of nature's beauty known as the Eagle Days beginning at 10 a.m. Three separate locations around the lake will be used for tour starting points, and the marinas will be providing pontoon boats to ferry spectators to and from eagle observation areas. Eagle "hot spots" around the lake will be identified by the Missouri Department of Conservation. To participate, register with the Stockton Lake Project Office at (417) 276-3113 prior to the tour date. Dress appropriately for the day's weather conditions and bring your binoculars and camera. Check the Stockton Lake Web site for more info. [www.nwk.usace.army.mil/st](http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/st).

## ***Tuttle Creek Lake, Jan. 3***

Eagle Day celebration at the Tuttle Creek Visitor's Center will begin at 9 a.m. Guest speakers will be present to talk about birds of prey and eagle nesting in Kansas. A bus tour will follow the presentations to take observers to areas around the lake where eagles are known to frequent. For more information, check the Tuttle Creek Web site. [www.nwk.usace.army.mil/tc](http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/tc).

## ***Smithville Lake, Jan. 10 & 11***

Live eagle programs throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday. School busses will be running continuously throughout the day to pick up eagle watchers from the visitor's center and take them to the eagle viewing area. Multiple agencies and volunteer wildlife groups will be present to educate the public on eagles. Monitor the Smithville Lake Web site for updated information. [www.nwk.usace.army.mil/sm](http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/sm).

## ***Milford Lake, Jan. 17 & 18***

Visit the Milford Nature Center to view live birds, listen to speakers and participate in bus tours for wild eagle viewing. Check the Milford Lake Web site for more information. [www.nwk.usace.army.mil/mi](http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/mi).

## ***Harry S. Truman Lake, Jan. 24***

Doors to the Truman Lake Visitor's Center will be open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Live eagle programs will be scheduled. Check the Harry S. Truman Lake Web page for more details. [www.nwk.usace.army.mil/ht](http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/ht).

## ***Perry Lake, Jan. 24***

The Perry Lake office will be hosting a mini Eagle Day from 10 a.m. to noon at the Perry Community Center in Perry, Kan. Wildlife Biologist Michael Watkins will give a one hour presentation about eagles nesting in Kansas, and then observers will be taken to Perry Lake for one hour to observe eagles in their

natural setting. For more information, contact Bunnie Watkins at (816) 389-3921.

## ***Perry Lake & Clinton Lake, Jan. 25***

The KAW Valley Eagles Day will be held in Lawrence, Kan., at the Free State High School from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Clinton Lake Project Office and the Perry Lake Project Office will be co-hosting this event with the Jayhawk Audubon Society, Kansas Wildlife and Parks, Westar Green Team and ICL Performance Products. Field trips to view the eagles at Clinton Lake will be offered. Numerous tables with hands-on activities for all ages and formal environmental presentations will be held throughout the day.

## **Winter car survival kit**

- \*Shovel
- \*Sand, salt or kitty litter
- \*Traction mats
- \*Tow chain
- \*Compass
- \*Cloth or roll of paper towels
- \*Warning light or road flares
- \*Extra clothing and footwear
- \*Emergency food pack
- \*Axe or hatchet
- \*Booster cables
- \*Knife
- \*Booster cables
- \*Water containers
- \*Ice scraper and brush
- \*Water-proof matches or lighter
- \*Road maps
- \*Matches and a 'survival' candle in a deep can (to warm hands, heat a drink or use as an emergency light)
- \*Fire extinguisher
- \*Methyl hydrate (for fuel line and windshield de-icing)

*The following items should be kept in the cab of your car:*

- \*Flashlight with extra batteries
- \*First-aid kit
- \*Blanket (special 'survival' blankets are best) or sleeping bags
- \*Non-perishable, high-energy foods

# Congratulations

## on a job well done

Quarterly awards presented October 21, 2008

### First Infantry Division Headquarters Team

For teamwork and effort in delivering a Command and Control facility to serve as the new Headquarters of the First Infantry Division.

-Abe Curry	-Mian Rehman
-James Dietz	-Bryan Smith
-Hunt, John	-Brandon Tobias
-Mike Istas	-Kris Upson
-Randy Kuzniakowski	-Dave Werner
-Ted London	-John Wilkus
-Jonathan Petry	

### Air Combat Command Design Agent of the Year

For design and award of over \$251 million in Air Force Military Family Housing projects at Whiteman and Seymour Johnson Air Force Bases

-Rick Whitsell

### American Council of Engineering Companies

For groundbreaking work with Merrick and Company to collect aerial photography, light detection and ranging (LiDar) and hyperspectral imagery for a 20-square mile study area for the Missouri River Recovery Program

-Charles Sellmeyer  
-Jason Sheely

### Achievement Medal for Civilian Service

For their contributions in the completion of a Record of Decision (ROD) amendment for the Mohonk Road Superfund Site

-Frank Bales	-Robert Pender
-Amy Darpinian	-Paul Speckin
-Jodi Gentry	-Chuck Williams

### Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Award

For teamwork and effort in delivering the 1LT Joseph Terry CBRN Responder Training Facility at Fort Leonard Wood

-John Hunt	-Kent Spence
-Steve Jirousek	-Steve Cully
-Jenny Koonce	-Brandon Tobias
-Kelly Miller	-Rick Whitsell
-Jonathan Petry	-John Wilkus
-Robert Riley	-Roy Wingfield
-Bryan Smith	-Bennet Yoakum
-Kenneth Sondergard	

### Construction Management Excellence (Hard Hat) Award

For performance of duties as a Project Engineer

-John Park

### Commander's Award for Civilian Service

For work on the case of *Raytheon Aircraft Co. v. United States*

-Stacey Andreason  
-Julie Digiovani  
-Catherine Sanders

For serving as technical Team Leader of the Fort Riley Division Headquarters project delivery team

-James Dietz

For serving as the Chief of the Management Support Branch in the Operations Division from October 2005 through September 2008

-Sharon Fritz

For support to Whiteman Air Force Base and Air Combat Command

-Jay Rudy  
-Rick Whitsell

For support provided to the Headquarters U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regional Integration Team.

-Bryan Smith

### Heartland Award for Leadership

For his involvement with the Truman/Bagnell Dam Security Exercise

-Bill Empson

### Heartland Award for Leadership

For work to ensure the availability and adequacy of the pre-placed contracts used for the district's HTRW Program

-Leland Fuerst

### Heartland Award for Teamwork and Commitment

For their roles in preparation and evaluation of a \$50+ million contract for remediation at the Cornell Dubilier Superfund Site in New Jersey

-Frank Bales	-Robert Pender
-Amy Darpinian	-Paul Speckin
-Matthew Dolly	-Shelly Thomas
-Ken Maas	

### Lewis & Clark Merit Award for Design

For teamwork and effort in delivering the Lewis & Clark Center at Fort Leavenworth

-Dale Bestgen  
-Christine Hendzlik  
-David Manka

### Superior Civilian Service Award

For his leadership in executing the largest Military Construction Program in Kansas City Engineering District's history

-Rex Ostrander

### Commander's Coin Recipients

-Sheryl Bach	-Larry Janicek
-Sharla Biegert	-Michelle Metlyn
-Ardis Claypool	-Ron Mulder
-Luke Cory	-Ken Nelson
-Nolan Fisher	-Patrick Trier
-Daniel Hayes	-Steven Whetzel



# Season of giving

Kansas City District's very own Chief of Emergency Management, Paul Flamm, is currently deployed to Gulf Region Division South District, Iraq, as the Engineering Branch chief.

Flamm visited hundreds of Iraqi students at Al Hakheeta School near Nasariyah in southern Iraq and passed out colorful toys thanks to the generosity of stateside donors. GRS families and friends interested in supporting the program can mail clothes and shoes (any size) and toys to the following address: USACE GRS, Toys/Donation Closet, COB Adder, Tallil, Iraq AE 09331.

Al Hakheeta school is a 12-classroom school near Tallil Air Base. It serves more than 800 students, with 450 primary-age youngsters in the morning and a second session for 350 high school students in the afternoon. The school, which has 22 teachers, was built in 1979.

"When I told my youngest daughter about the school visits, she called her mother from college and asked her to send all of her stuffed animals to the children here," Flamm said. "Hayley had been saving these since she was a baby and never wanted to part with them until now. Currently, she is a junior majoring in Communications at the University of Missouri in Columbia."



Paul Flamm hands out stuffed toys donated by his daughter, Hayley, and visits the classrooms. *Photo Norris Jones*

## Kansas City District Deployed:

### *Afghanistan*

Kevin Blair  
Danielle Brooks  
Shunte Gray  
Kevin Lynch  
Michael McConnell  
Trudy Templeton

### *Iraq*

Carol Bunce  
Alicia Embrey  
Tereso "Ted" Falcon  
Paul Flamm  
Florentine Gilkey  
Lawanda Lamar  
Derrick Mitchell  
Rona Parker-Anderson  
Richard Pinkney  
Doug Plachy  
Allen Stratton

## We asked... ...and you answered!

## What's your New Year's resolution?



Theresa Schreckler, PM-CG  
To plant a vegetable garden.



Sharon McDonald, RM-B  
My New Year's resolution is to have more abundance and success manifest in my life through sharing and caring from the heart. I want each day to be the first day of life-long happiness.



Michael Prine, EE  
My resolution is to be more green and to do what I can to minimize the effect this economy has on me.



Katrina Marx, ED-DS  
To be more mindful and notice the little things in life instead of worrying about the everyday tasks.

Question for the next issue: Have you been affected by our economy's current recession? If so, what are you doing to cut back? If you would like your answer featured in the next issue, email the editor at [diana.mccoy@usace.army.mil](mailto:diana.mccoy@usace.army.mil).



# AROUND THE DISTRICT...



**Hotdog anyone?** Senior Leaders gather on the patio of the Richard Bolling Federal Building Oct. 24 to serve hotdogs, chips, cookies and soda pop to Corps employees as their way of saying "thanks." The Kansas City District had a banner year of success in FY08. Photo by Diana McCoy

**No, this is not some '80s dance move.** Ben Davis heaves a contract during the CFC Olympics at the Richard Bolling Federal Building held Oct. 29. The entire event, consisting of an office chair relay, duck hunt and contract chucking, raised \$1,060. This year's winner was PM-C and PM-P. Photo by Diana McCoy

**An apple a day...** Marvin Parks, structural engineer, listens to one of Stockton Lake's tainter gate trunnion bearings as it is being operated. The "patient" was found to be in excellent health. Parks was the structural engineer for Stockton's periodic inspection. Photo by Susan Abbott